

Appl. No. 10/775,524
Amdt. Dated Dec. 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Sep. 10, 2004

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully appreciates the allowance of claims 18-21.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lai (6129594).

In response to these claim rejections, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate novel and patentable limitations thereto and canceled dependent claims 7-8 without prejudice. By such amendments, applicant believes that amended claim 1 is now patentable over the cited prior art. Detailed explanations are given below.

Amended independent claim 1 defines *an insulative housing having a top wall, a bottom wall, opposite sidewalls and a rear wall, which together define a receiving space for receiving a complementary electrical connector, and an L-shaped tongue projecting forwardly from said rear wall and extending into said receiving space*. However, Lai DOES NOT disclose a receiving space formed by a top wall, a bottom wall, opposite sidewalls and a rear wall of a housing for receiving a complementary connector and an L-shaped tongue as defined in claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Lai which fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1.

Claims 2-5 and 7 are also believed to be patentable since they depend

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from claim 1, either directly or indirectly.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai (6129594) in view of Carlson et al. (4062611).

Claim 6 depends directly from independent claim 1, and accordingly claim 6 includes all the limitations as defined in independent claim 1. Neither Lai nor Carlson et al. discloses a receiving space formed by a top wall, a bottom wall, opposite sidewalls and a rear wall of a housing for receiving a complementary connector and an L-shaped tongue as defined in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the two cited references.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai (6129594) in view of Lee (6129573).

Claims 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai (6129594) in view of Lee (6129573), as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of Sato (6196886).

In the same way, none of Lai, Lee and Sato discloses an L-shaped tongue projecting forwardly from said rear wall and extending into said receiving space as defined in claim 1. Thus, claims 10-12 are believed to be patentable over these cited references since they depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1.

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Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai (6129594) in view of Cheng (US 20040097132).

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai (6129594) in view of Cheng (US 20040097132), as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Lee (6129581) and Sato (6196886).

In response to these claim rejections, applicant has amended independent claim 13 to incorporate novel limitations thereto. No new matter is introduced since the amendments are supported by the original specification. By such amendments, applicant believes that amended claim 13 is now patentable over the cited references. Detailed explanations are given below.

Regarding amended claim 13, a cable end connector assembly as defined therein comprises a housing defining a plurality of passageways, a plurality of contact units received in said passageways, a spacer, *a plurality of wires each comprising a conductive core electrically connecting with a corresponding contact unit*, and *a cover over-molded with a rear end of the housing and front ends of the wires*. The housing defines *a guiding slot in one side thereof for guiding insertion of the complementary electrical connector*, and has at least one key. The spacer comprises a plurality of through holes, a supporting portion supporting the contact units and at least one keyway receiving said at least one key.

Lai discloses that an electrical connector comprises an insulative housing 1, a plurality of terminals 3 and a spacer 4. The insulative housing defines a plurality of passageways for receiving the terminals therein. A pair of locking elements 13 extends from opposite ends of the housing and an opening 14 is formed in each locking element. A plurality of receiving holes 44 are defined through the spacer corresponding to the passageways.

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A plurality of bars is equidistantly formed on the spacer for forming the positioning slots 451 and separating soldering sections 32 of the terminals 3. A pair of locking portions 41 is formed on opposite ends of the spacer. An outer surface 411 of each locking portion 41 engages with an inner surface 131 of the corresponding locking element 31 of the housing. A pair of projections 43 is formed on the outer surface 411 of the locking portion 41. Each projection has an inclined surface for facilitating engagement between the projection 43 and the opening 14 of the corresponding locking element 13. However, Lai does not disclose a plurality of wires, a cover over-molded with a rear end of the housing and front ends of the wires, and a housing defining a guiding slot in one side thereof for guiding insertion of the complementary electrical connector. Although Cheng discloses a plurality of wires and a cover, Cheng DOES NOT disclose a guiding slot as defined in claim 13. Therefore, combination of Lai and Cheng cannot render obvious the present invention as defined in claim 13. Claim 13 is patentable over Lai in view of Cheng.

Claims 14-16 and 17 are also believed to be patentable since they depend from claim 13, either directly or indirectly.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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